

City of Seattle

Gregory J. Nickels, Mayor

Seattle Transportation

Grace Crunican, Director

Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board

November 1, 2006

City of Seattle Councilmembers City of Seattle

Jodie Vice Chair

Subject: 2007-2008 City of Seattle Budget

Christine Tachibana Secretary

Dear Councilmembers:

Rob Fellows

Tammy Frick

Celeste Gilman

Jean Healy

Fiona McCargo

Sarah Ross-Viles

Benjamin Smith

Peg Staeheli

Howard Wu

The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City on matters related to pedestrians and the impacts which actions by the City may have upon the pedestrian environment; and shall have the opportunity to contribute to all aspects of the City's planning processes insofar as they may relate to pedestrian safety and access.

City Council Resolution 28791

Thank you for increasing city spending on pedestrian safety and sidewalks last year. The Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board (SPAB) has reviewed the proposed 2007-2008 city budget, and we are pleased to see that these levels have been retained. Of course we hope to see much more improvement in both safety and sidewalk expansion programs in the future if and when the "Bridging the Gap" measure is passed.

Whether or not Proposition 1 passes, we urge you to revisit the budget in light of the election result. If the proposition passes, we look forward to helping shape the details on how new funds will be allocated. In particular, we are supportive of the Pedestrian Master Plan, increased funding in the Safe Routes to School program, and continued funding for sidewalk construction and maintenance.

If Proposition 1 does not pass, we urge you to revisit elements of the current budget. We strongly support the need for the Pedestrian Master Plan, as this will be the foundation for pedestrian priorities in Seattle. This project can and should be funded from existing sources, including recently enacted transportation taxes, if voters do not approve a property tax levy lid. We also encourage you to continue the sidewalk development program and fund a safe-routes-to-school program. These pedestrian safety and improvement projects are important to the citizens of Seattle!

We applaud your commitment to pedestrian safety and creating a city that encourages walking as a means of transportation and a way to create a livable, safe places. Seattle residents want safe, accessible, and pleasant pedestrian facilities and these funding recommendations will allow an opportunity to create that environment. We look forward to working with you, Mayor Nickels, and the citizens of Seattle to create successful pedestrian priorities. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Sincerely, Seattle Pedestrian Advisory Board Jodie Vice, Chair

Rob Fellows, Member



